Jharkhand

1. Kiriburu	—	104 MT
2. Meghataburu	—	97 MT
3. Gua	—	
4. Chira (Manoharpur)	—	2000 MT

Orissa

1. Barsua-Taldih	—	276 MT
2. Kalta	—	67 MT
3. Bolani	—	211 MT

RINL has no captive iron ore mines of its own. As regards private sector steel plants in the country having captive iron ore mines, the Ministry of Steel does not have data on captive iron ore mines in the private sector.

(b) SAIL in the public sector has captive iron ore mines, it has reported no export of iron ore from its captive mines during the last five year. However, past information in respect of IISCO, earlier a subsidiary of SAIL is being collected. This Ministry does not have access to date regarding iron ore export by the private sector, plant-wise.

(c) As per present export policy, export of iron ore of +64% Fe is restricted and can be exported through canalizing agency. However, export of the following types of iron ore is freely allowed:—

(i) Iron ore of Goa origin when exported to China, Europe, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, irrespective of the Fe content.

(ii) Iron ore of Redi Origin to all markets, irrespective of the Fe content.

(iii) All iron ore of Fe content up to 64%.

(iv) Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd. (KIOCL) exports its own product (iron ore concentrates and pellets) directly.

Operations of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company

2880. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company, a public sector enterprise, has ceased to be in operation due to Apex Court's directives on grounds of environmental hazard;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Kudremukh mines still have an estimated 6.5 billion tonnes of magnetite ore in its reserves, waiting to be exploited to feed the iron/steel sector; and

(c) whether because of undue weightage given for environmental safety aspects, large volume of mineral wealth would lay inaccessible for industrial development of the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Mining operations of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) have been stopped w.e.f. 31.12.2005 in pursuance of order of Supreme Court. However, production of pellets at Mangalore plant is operational, though at much lower capacity.

(b) Kudremukh mines located in Western Ghats region have primary ore of 315 million tonnes and secondary weathered ore of 40-50 million tonnes approximately.

(c) An implication of the recent Supreme Court order in the case of KIOCL is that most of the magnetite deposits which are located in Western Ghats and similar sensitive environmental zones, may not be available for value addition.

Iron ore to sponge iron manufacturing companies

†2881. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of sponge iron manufacturing companies are on the verge of closure due to steep hike in the prices of iron ores;

(b) whether Government have formulated any scheme for providing iron ores to these companies at reasonable prices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) No, Sir. However, Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association (SIMA) has informed that there has been some hike in price of iron ore during the last fortnight.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.